

of Murakami et al., Chem. Pharm. Bull. 41 [12] 2129-2131 (1993), which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. Other teachings regarding crape myrtle and *lagerstroemia speciosa* are seen in Kakuda et al., Biosci. Biotech. Biochem. 60 (2) 204-208 (1996) and Kajimoto and Murakami, Nippon Elyo, Shokuryo Gakkaishi 52: 209-218 (1999), both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2 and 14.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17 as follows:

1. (Amended) A topical composition comprising:  
crape myrtle extract in an amount effective to improve the aesthetic appearance of skin, scalp and/or hair, and  
  
a cosmetically acceptable vehicle,  
  
wherein the crape myrtle extract is present in an amount from about 0.0001 wt% to about 15 wt% based on the total weight of the composition.

3. (Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the crape myrtle extract is present in an amount from about 0.001 wt% to about 10 wt% based on the total weight of the composition.

8. (Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the crape myrtle extract includes colosolic acid.

10. (Amended) A method of improving the aesthetic appearance of skin, comprising topically applying to the skin:

a composition comprising an effective amount of crape myrtle extract; and

a cosmetically acceptable vehicle,

wherein the improvement in aesthetic appearance is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) decreasing skin fragility;
- b) treating and reversing deterioration of collagen and/or elastin;
- c) treating skin atrophy;
- d) promoting/accelerating cell turnover;

- e) improving skin firmness/plumpness;
- f) improving skin texture;
- g) decreasing fine lines and/or wrinkles;
- h) improving skin tone;
- i) enhancing skin thickness;
- j) restoring skin luster;
- k) minimizing signs of fatigue; and
- l) reducing skin dryness.

15. (Amended) A method of treating and/or ameliorating the effects of extrinsic and/or intrinsic aging on skin comprising topically applying to the skin a composition comprising an effective amount of crape myrtle extract and a cosmetically acceptable vehicle.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the crape myrtle extract is applied to the skin at least once daily for a period of time sufficient to treat and/or ameliorate the effects of skin aging.

Please add new claims 26 to 28.

-- 26. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the improvement in aesthetic appearance of hair includes at least one of the following:

- a) increasing hair thickness;
- b) improving hair luster and shine;
- c) improving manageability; and
- d) overall hair health.

27. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the improvement in aesthetic appearance of hair includes at least one of the following:

- a) increasing hair thickness;
- b) improving hair luster and shine; and
- c) improving manageability.

28. (New) A method of countering the effects of extrinsic and/or intrinsic aging on skin comprising topically applying to the skin a composition comprising an effective amount of crape myrtle extract and a cosmetically acceptable vehicle. --

#### **REMARKS**

The present application has claims 1, 3 to 13 and 15 to 28. These claims include independent composition claim